

Wilcats Stall Mulvane Progress

The Mulvane High School boys' basketball team is off to a good start this season, but they're not going into the holidays on a high. Andover came to town Tuesday night, Dec. 19, and were very rude guests, taking control from the beginning and defeating the Wildcats, 29-15. Mulvane goes into the break 1-2 in AVCTL Division III, 3-3 overall.

Andover jumped out to a 15-5 lead after one quarter. The Wildcats tried to keep it close after that, but it slowly expanded to 26-15 by halftime and 39-26 by the end of the third quarter. The Wildcats went cold in the final period as the Trojans outscored Mulvane 20-9 to break the game open. Andover hit five three-pointers in the game and made 11 of 29 free-throw attempts. Mulvane hit just 10 shots from the floor, three of them three-pointers, and were 12-for-19 from the line.

Eight Wildcats scored in the game, but none of them reached double figures. The Wildcats were led by sophomore Tyler Springer with nine points and junior Dylan Davidson with six. Mulvane also got five points each from Ryan Herring and John Knight, four from Jordan Couch, and two each from Brennan Higgins, Levi Hein, and Andrew Myers.

After going winless in AVCTL III the past two seasons, the Wildcats didn't have to wait long for their first league win in 2006-07.

The 'Cats won their home opener Friday night, Dec. 15, over El Dorado's Wildcats, 50-49, in a game that was not decided until the final seconds. It was Mulvane's first league win as a member of the AVCTL, as well as their third win of the season, equalling Mulvane's win total from last season.

"I think this win shows what kind of progress we're making," said MHS head coach Scott Dunham. "We started slowly, but we got our own going late in the first half. Our defense was solid, and our offense was consistent after the first quarter. We're learning that being close isn't good enough anymore."

El Dorado jumped out to an 11-6 lead after the first quarter, but Mulvane started the second period fast, scoring the first 13 points to take a 19-11 lead. El Dorado fought back, scoring the next 10 points to take the lead back. A late El Dorado three-pointer gave them a 24-21 lead at the half. "We lost our momentum because we started getting into foul trouble," said Dunham. "We was them in the free-throw line way too much, which made the game more interesting than we would've liked. We also didn't shoot enough free throws ourselves."

The game stayed close the entire second half, with neither team building much of a lead. The difference for Mulvane may have been the play of John Knight, who scored 10 of his 14 points in the second half, including a fastbreak layup that tied the game at 48-48 late in the fourth quarter. "John became more aggressive on offense in the second half," said Dunham. "I think he realized he could take the ball in the bucket against their defense, and he gave himself scoring opportunities."

Free throws by Levi Hein and Jordan Couch gave Mulvane a 50-48 lead, but El Dorado had a chance to tie the game at the line. The second free throw would miss, leaving Mulvane ahead by one. A last attempt by El Dorado was blocked by three Wildcats, and Mulvane ran off the final few seconds.

"Any league win in our league is a good win," said Dunham. "It was also important to our guys to win our home opener. Even though our varsity hasn't had much success the past few years, we have several players this year who have had success. Our JV and Freshman teams both had winning records last year. It can be a rough mental hurdle, but we're learning how to win these close games."

Knight's 14 points led three Wildcats in double figures. Davidson had 11 points while Hein added 10. Mulvane also got six points

Class 4A Basketball Sub-State Tournaments

(Page 26-March 3)
At Rose Hill—Mulvane, Rose Hill, Andover, Canby, Belle Plaine, Wallington, Clatskanie, Dupont, Independence.



Guard Tyler Springer sets a screen against El Dorado, giving Jordan Couch (45) room to drive for a shot

from Higgins, three from Couch, and two each from Aaron Elston, Quinton Smith, and Andrew Myers. Mulvane was only 8-for-21 from the line while El Dorado was 18-for-27.

The Mulvane junior varsity improved to 5-0 on the season with a 59-30 win over El Dorado. Mulvane outscored El Dorado 16-2 from the line. The Wildcats got nine points from Quinton Smith, eight from Brennan Higgins, seven each from Jacob Snider and Evan Elston, five from Stephen Saldívar, two from Jordan Couch, and one from Bryce Walden.

The Wildcat jayvees also won 43-42 at Rose Hill Tuesday, Dec. 12. Mulvane got 12 points each from Brennan Higgins and Stephen Saldívar, eight from Brandon Christian, five from Jacob Snider, two each from Bryce Walden and Quinton Smith, and one each from Cody Mulhoney and Levi Hein.

The Wildcats' first game after the holiday break will be a home game Friday night, Jan. 5, against AVCTL III rival Augusta, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Varsity Boys

Andover	13	11	13	26-29			
El Dorado	17	20	11	48-50			
Andover—Calvert	3	Green	3	Arden	Beardsley	4	
Boyer	2	Davidson	8	McIntosh	Beardsley	3	
Larson	4	Ryan	Spokane	4	Labbe	Melton	19
PG	18	CG	PT	18-29			
Mulvane—Brennan	Higgins	6	Tyler	Springer	5		
Ryan	Herring	5	Andrew	Myers	2		
John	Knight	5	Dylan	Davidson	6		
Levi	Hein	2	Jordan	Couch	4		
PG	10	CG	PT	10			

Junior Varsity Boys

El Dorado	4	8	10	6-30			
Mulvane	12	7	11	39-49			
Boyer	5	Smith	3	Paul	3	Beattie	1
Wright	9	Clay	2	Brown	6	PG	13
CG	PT	3					
Mulvane—Brennan	Higgins	4	Bryce	Walden	1		
Aaron	Elston	1	Stephen	Saldívar	1		
Jordan	Couch	2	Quinton	Smith	3		
PG	11	PT	14-36				
Mulvane	10	10	6	15-45			
Rose Hill	9	11	9	34-42			
Mulvane—Brennan	Higgins	11	Bryce	Walden	2		
Jacob	Snider	2	Levi	Hein	1		
Stephen	Saldívar	1	Quinton	Smith	1		
Brandon	Christian	1	Cody	Mulhoney	1		
PG	13	CG	PT	9-15			
Rose Hill—Chase	Cohen	1	Tyler	Stalder	1		
Blake	Thurman	1	Ryan	Thurman	2		
Blake	Thurman	1	Steve	Walton	1		
PG	14	CG	PT	9-14			